REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 2, 23, 26, 36, 57, and 59 and objected to claims 9-22, 31-33, and 43-56. Applicants submit that claims 9-22, 31-33, and 43-56 are in condition for allowance in their current form because the amended base claims 1, 25, and 35 from which they depend are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed below.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 24, 25, 27, 30, 34-35, 37, 38, 42, and 58 as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102(e)) by Blaum (U.S. Patent No. 6,429,986). Applicants traverse.

Amended independent claims 1, 25 and 35 concern storing input groups of uncoded binary data on a storage medium, and require: receiving a plurality of uncoded data blocks in a data stream; generating one corresponding encoded data block for each uncoded data block, wherein an encoded data stream obtained from concatenating successive encoded blocks includes a predetermined bit pattern comprising a plurality of bits, wherein the bit pattern always occurs within a first number of bits and two occurrences of a "1" and "0" always occur within a second number of bits; and storing the encoded data stream on the storage medium

Applicants amended claims 1, 25, and 35 to add the requirement that the two occurrences "always" occur with a second number of bits. As indicated in the Interview Summary prepared by the Examiner, during the phone interview, the Examiner indicated that making the above amendment by adding "always" appears to overcome the rejection in view of the cited Blaum. The Examiner further said that she would enter this amendment. Applicants submit that this amendment to claims 1, 25, and 35 places these claims in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

The Examiner cited col. 4, lines 55-65 and col. 5, lines 20-31 as disclosing the claim requirement that the bit pattern always occurs within a first number of bits and two occurrences of 1 and 0 occur within a second number of bits. (Final Office Action, pgs. 2-3) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 4 mentions using a code having an m/n rate block coded sequence, where m represents the number of bits in a group of uncoded binary user bits and n represents the number of bits in the corresponding group of encoded bits. The group of n encoded bits contains at least one binary pattern that enables accurate timing of readback operations.

Page 12 of 14

The cited col. 5 mentions that "010" patterns in two neighboring encoded groups can never be separated by more than 10 intervening bits, so that the "010" pattern occurs in the encoded bit stream with a guaranteed minimum level of frequency. The cited col. 5 discusses a bit pattern of two 0s and one 1. Nowhere does the cited col. 5 anywhere disclose the claim requirement that the bit pattern always occurs within a first number of bits and in the bit pattern, two occurrences of a "1" and "0" always occur with a second number of bits.

FIG. 7 of Blaum shows two occurrences of the pattern "010" occurring within 12 intervening bits. However, the cited FIG. 7 does not disclose that two occurrences of "0" and "1" always occur within the same second number of bits. For instance, in FIG. 7, if there are 12 intervening bits, then a "0" will at least always occur within 12 bits and a "1" will always occur within at least 14 bits. However, both a "0" and "1" in the cited FIG. 7 at least always occur within a different number of bits, 12 and 14, as shown, not the same "second number" of bits as claimed.

Accordingly, claims 1, 25, and 35 are patentable over the cited art because the cited Blaum does not disclose all the claim requirements.

Applicants submit that claims 3, 4, 8, 24, 27, 30, 34, 37, 38, 42, and 58 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from one of claims 1, 25, and 35, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above. .

1.   <u>Claims 5-7, 28-29, and 39-41 are Patentable Over the Cited Art</u>

The Examiner rejected claims 5-7, 28-29, and 39-41 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Blaum in view of Lynch (U.S. Patent No. 5,173,694).

Applicants traverse the obviousness rejection and submit that claims 5-7, 28-29, and 39-41 are patentable over the cited combination because they depend from one of claims 1, 25, and 35, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above.

<div align="center">Conclusion</div>

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-59 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit herewith the fees for the claim amendments and a one-

Amdt. dated June 29, 2005   Serial No. 10/037,753
Reply to Office action of Mar. 30, 2005 ·   Docket No. TUC920010037US1
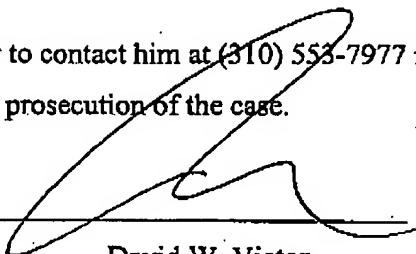   Firm No. 0022.0007

month extension of time. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge

Deposit Account No. 09-0449.

    The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the

Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: June 29, 2005   By:_____

                                                        David W. Victor
                                                        Registration No. 39,867

Please direct all correspondences to:

David Victor
Konrad Raynes & Victor, LLP
315 South Beverly Drive, Ste. 210
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Tel: 310-553-7977
Fax: 310-556-7984